

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 20, 2001

LB 827

this Internet Access Enhancement Fund that you've put into the bill, which basically says that any money, any profits, that the public utilities may gain by virtue of leading...leasing dark fiber go into this fund. Now we just had an interesting couple of comments, one from Senator Kristensen and then another from you, both opposing my amendment which puts up an alternate fund, and there were two or three interesting things about your approach and Senator Kristensen's approach that I think one or the other of you should reconcile at some point in time for the body, because it seems to me that they're totally contradictory, and here's what I perceive to be the contradiction. Senator Kristensen says there's not going to be any money in this fund; no money is going into this fund; this fund was designed to be a disincentive to cut off the leasing of dark fiber; there will be no leasing of dark fiber. That's right. In which case, I will get to the point of asking Senator Kristensen later why not be straightforward about it, why be circumscribed about it? But if Senator Kristensen is right about his perception of the bill then, Senator, what is your perception? Why do you quibble with me about where this money is going if, in fact, there's no money going anywhere? And Senator Kristensen admits that LES nor NPPD nor anybody else has any incentive to do anything because it wasn't designed really to give an incentive. It was really designed, as Senator Kristensen was brutally honest in asserting on the floor, that this was designed to end all leasing. So which premise should we work from, Senator? Should we work from the premise that there's a modicum of honesty in this provision and that really you think there will be some funds, or you want...you want LES and you want NPPD to lease out this fiber, you really want them to use the fiber, and there will be money going into this fund? Or should we operate on the principle of Senator Kristensen's perception of the bill that this fund is a sham and a front anyway and it's all really designed to end the leasing period? What...what...tell us which is the real bill.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Well, I drafted the bill. My staff and I drafted the bill. It wasn't drafted by anyone else and I drafted the bill after a number of discussions with people at the table, such as LES, power districts, the telephone companies, in an effort to find some way to use these underutilized resources, as I would refer them as, and my intent